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christianlifecenter

1009 Mission St. Santa Cruz, California

www.clcsantacruz.org

Friday, August 25,

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CLC History

For almost 79 years Christian Life Center has been a central component of the Christian community in Santa Cruz. From its pioneering days as a mission occupying several different storefronts in the early twenties, to its present wide-ranging family and community programs based from the Mission Street location, CLC has contributed hope and healing to Santa Cruz.

CLC was established in February, 1926, after groups had met for several years in temporary locations. Then calling itself the Glad Tiding Tabernacle, the congregation occupied a permanent church building at the corner of Ocean and Dakota Streets for twenty-two years beginning in October, 1926. Because of the frequent flooding of the Branciforte Creek and the San Lorenzo River near the church, however, the decision was made to seek another location. The present church site was purchased, and the first phase of construction, an educational unity was dedicated in August, 1956.

The construction was completed during the tenure of Raymond Murray as pastor, who had assumed his responsibilities in 1945. When Fern and Raymond Murray left the pastorate for other ministries, the position was filled by Kenneth and Gladys Short. With a background in missionary ministry in Indonesia, the Shorts further encouraged the congregation to maintain a global concern, including the support of foreign missionaries and frequent overseas trips to undertake construction projects. Reverend Short left the church in 1961 to return to his previous ministry with the Far East Broadcasting Company.

When Colorado Pastor Kenneth Schmidt assumed leadership, he encouraged the growing congregation to seek ore adequate facilities. Unable to find a suitable construction site, the leadership decided to establish a building fund for future development and to purchase properties surrounding the church. Pastor Robert Pagett (Pastor from 1973 to 1991) led the congregation into its place as on the largest churches in Santa Cruz County through the 1970s and 1980s. With outreach to UCSC and the youth counterculture, many souls were saved and lives rescued during the tumultuous 70s.

Pastor Ray Shelton (1991-1996) led the church on its quest for community impact and a continuing effort to expand facilities. Jason Garcia (1996 to early 2004) focused upon reaching the entire county of Santa Cruz.

Site Map

In 1999 CLC merged with Scotts Valley Christian Center. The two congregations quickly demonstrated that they held common interests and vision. In 2001 another merger occurred this time between Soquel Church of Grace and CLC. The Scotts Valley property and the Soquel property were eventually sold. The capital secured from the sale of the properties has been allocated to the expansion of the ministry of CLC, and the hope of purchasing a new location to better serve the county of Santa Cruz.

In 2004, it can truly be said that CLC serves the expanse of Santa Cruz County (from ocean to mountains) with broad ministries and a message of hope and love, cultivated over a seventy-nine year history.

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